

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 1A and 1B are the cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence of soybean seed coat peroxidase (SEQ ID NO:1). Nucleotides are numbered by assigning +1 to the first base of the ATG start codon; amino acids are numbered by assigning +1 to the N-terminal Gln residue after cleavage of the putative signal sequence. The N-terminal signal sequence, the region of the active site, and the heme-binding domain are underlined. The numerals I, II and III placed directly above single nucleotide gaps in the sequence indicate the three intron splice positions. The target site and direction of five different PCR primers are shown with dotted lines above the nucleotide sequence. An asterisk (*) marks the translation stop codon.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 2A and 2B are the genomic DNA sequence of the Soybean seed coat peroxidase (commencing at nucleotide 1342 of SEQ ID NO:2).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 3A-(1)-3A-(4) and 3B are a comparison of soybean seed coat peroxidase with other closely related plant peroxidases. The GenBank accession numbers are provided next to the name of the plant from which the peroxidase was isolated. The accession number for the soybean sequence is L78163. (Fig. 3A-(a)-3A-(4)) A comparison of the nucleic acids sequences; (Fig. 3B) A comparison of the amino acid sequences (L78163 nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1; L78163 amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1,

U41657 nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:10; U41657 amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:15; X90693 nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:11; X90693 amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:16; X90694 nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:12; X90694 amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:17; L36156 nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:13; L36156 amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:18; X90692 nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:14; X90692 amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:19).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 5 exhibits the structure of the *Ep* Locus. A 17 kb fragment including the *Ep* locus is illustrated schematically. A 3.3 kb portion of the gene is enlarged and exons and introns are represented by shaded and open boxes, respectively. The final enlargement of the 5' region shows the location and DNA sequence around the 87 bp deletion occurring in the *ep* allele of soybean line OX312. Nucleotides are numbered by assigning +1 to the first base of the ATG start codon (OX347(Ep) sequence defined by nucleotides 1513-1621 of SEQ ID NO:2; OX342(ep) sequence defined by SEQ ID NO:20 (nucleotides 1513-1624 of SEQ ID NO:2 but with deletion of nucleotides 1524-1610)).